

What is claimed is:

1. A printed indicium comprising:

a first section comprising a first ink having a first color under normal daylight;
and

a second section comprising a second different ink, wherein the second ink comprises a fluorescent ink, wherein the fluorescent ink has a second color under normal daylight which is substantially the same as the first color, wherein the fluorescent ink has a fluorescence when subjected to fluorescent-exciting radiation, and wherein the second section is imbedded with the first section such that the first and second sections are substantially visually indiscernible within the indicium in normal daylight.

2. A printed indicium as in claim 1 wherein the second section is imbedded with the first section such that the first and second sections are substantially visually indiscernible from each other in normal daylight.

3. A printed indicium as in claim 1 wherein the first and second colors comprise a black color.

4. A printed indicium as in claim 1 wherein the printed indicium comprises postage meter indicium.

5. A printed indicium as in claim 1 wherein the second section comprises alphanumeric characters.

6. A printed indicium as in claim 1 wherein the second section comprises a bar code.

7. A printed indicium as in claim 1 wherein the second section is printed over a portion of the first section.

8. A printed indicium as in claim 1 wherein the second section is at least partially separate from and interlaced with the first section.

9. A printed indicium as in claim 1 wherein the second color comprises red or blue.

10. A printed indicium as in claim 1 wherein the first section comprises a two dimensional bar code.

11. A system for printing an indicium on an item, the system comprising:

a print head system adapted to print at least two different inks onto the item, the print head system comprising a first supply of a first ink having a first color under normal daylight and a second supply of a second different ink, the second different ink having a second color under a normal daylight which is substantially the same as the first color, and wherein the second ink comprises a fluorescent ink; and

a controller for controlling application of the first and second inks by the print head system on the item, wherein the controller is adapted to print the first and second inks in at least partially intermixed patterns such that the patterns of the first and second inks are substantially visually indiscernible within the indicium in normal daylight, and the second pattern of the second ink is discernible from the first pattern when subjected to fluorescent-exciting radiation.

12. A system for printing an indicium on an item as in claim 11 wherein the controller is adapted to print the first and second inks in at least partially intermixed patterns such that the patterns of the first and second inks are substantially visually indiscernible from each other in normal daylight.

13. A system for printing an indicium on an item as in claim 11 wherein the print head system comprises at least two print heads.

14. A system for printing an indicium on an item as in claim 11 wherein the print head system comprises a single print head adapted to pass by an area on the item at least two times, a first one of the times for printing the first ink and a second one of the times for printing the second ink.

15. A system for printing an indicium on an item as in claim 11 wherein the controller is adapted to print the second ink at least partially on top of the first ink.

16. A system for printing an indicium on an item as in claim 11 wherein the controller is adapted to proportionally print the first and second inks based upon relative sizes of the first and second patterns.

17. A system for printing an indicium on an item as in claim 11 wherein the controller is adapted to print the first and second inks in at least partially interlaced patterns.

18. A system for printing an indicium on an item as in claim 11 wherein the controller is adapted to change the second pattern based upon a signal from an input device.

19. A method of printing an indicium on an item comprising steps of:

printing a first pattern on the item with a first non-fluorescent ink, the first ink having a first color under normal daylight; and

printing a second pattern on the item at the first pattern with a second different ink, wherein the second different ink comprises a fluorescent ink having a substantially same color as the first ink under normal daylight, wherein the first and second patterns are substantially visually indiscernible within the indicium under normal daylight, and wherein the second pattern is discernible from the first pattern when subjected to a fluorescent-exciting illumination source.

20. A method as in claim 19 wherein the step of printing the second pattern comprises printing the second pattern relative to the first pattern such that the first and second patterns are substantially visually indiscernible from each other under normal daylight.

21. A method as in claim 19 wherein the step of printing the second pattern comprises printing the second pattern on top of the first pattern.

22. A method as in claim 19 wherein the step of printing the second pattern comprises at least partially interlacing portions of the second pattern with portions of the first pattern.

23. A method for detecting a printed indicium on an item comprising steps of:

printing the indicium on the item **as in claim 19**;

subjecting the indicium to the fluorescent-exciting illumination source; and

scanning the first and second patterns as the second pattern is made fluorescent to thereby read the second pattern.

24. A printed image comprising:

a first section comprising a first ink; and

a second section comprising a second different ink, wherein the second ink comprises a fluorescent ink which has a fluorescence when subjected to fluorescent-exciting radiation,

wherein the first and second sections are intermixed with each other and printed in a photo mode of printing to form the printed image, and wherein the first and second sections are substantially visually indiscernible within the printed image.

25. A printed image as in claim 24 wherein the first and second sections both comprise halftone or gray scale image sections.

26. A printed image as in claim 24 wherein the printed image comprises a photo image.

27. A printed indicium comprising:

a first section comprising a first ink; and

a second section comprising a second different ink, wherein the second ink comprises a fluorescent ink which is substantially invisible or transparent in normal daylight.

28. A printed indicium as in claim 27 wherein the second section is located on top of a portion of the first section.

29. A printed indicium as in claim 28 wherein the second section comprises a machine readable code section.

30. A printed indicium as in claim 27 wherein the printed indicium comprises postage indicium, and at least one of the first and section sections comprises a machine readable code section.